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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Jacques DEGELAEN et al. :  
Serial No. 09/276,923 : Group Art Unit 1645  
Filed March 26, 1999 : Examiner R. Zeman

#11/c  
JMK  
7/6/01

PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ANTIBIOTICS  
CONTAINING A B-LACTAM RING IN A BIOLOGICAL FLUID

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

**AMENDMENT** - COMPTONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CANCEL AND DEPOSITARY IN THE  
FILE FOR THIS FEE TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated March 27, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

*Cancel without prejudice claims 1-15 and substitute in their stead the following new claims:*

16. A process for detecting an antibiotic or antibiotics containing a  $\beta$ -lactam ring in a biological fluid, comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing a determined volume of the biological fluid in contact with an amount of recognition agent to form a mixture, and incubating the mixture under conditions which allow for the formation of a complex between an antibiotic or antibiotics, which may be present in the biological fluid, and the recognition agent,
- (b) placing the mixture obtained in step (a) in contact with at least one reference antibiotic which has been immobilized on a solid support, under conditions which allow the

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